

News Release

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Charleston Man Arrested on Child Pornography Charges

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced the arrest of Juan Carlos Maldonado Cervantes (DOB: 3/151991) of Charleston, S.C., on one charge connected to sexual exploitation of minors. The Charleston County Sheriff's Office, a member of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force made the arrest. Investigators with the Attorney General's Office assisted with the investigation.

Investigators state that Cervantes solicited nude photos from a minor victim and then threatened to distribute the photos.

Cervantes was arrested on Oct. 21, 2016. He is charged with one count Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, First Degree (§16-15-395), a felony offense punishable by up to 20 years of imprisonment. He is also charged with one count Harassment in the First Degree (§16-3-1700) and one count Assault and Battery in the Third Degree (§16-3-600).

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

Attorney General Wilson stressed all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.